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ASSASSIN'S CREED®

+ TRIAL BY FIRE

With his plans for escape foiled by an ambush, Tom Stoddard finds himself captive at the hands of the power-crazed Templar, Samuel Parris. With his life hanging in the balance, Tom faces a grisly end...

Can Tom summon the energy to stare death in the face and emerge triumphant, or is this the mission that will finally defeat the infamous Assassin?

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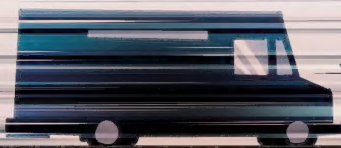


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San Diego, 2015.



TIME IS
ALMOST UP,
XAVIER. ARE YOU
READY TO KILL
JOSEPH?

GALINA,
CHARLOTTE'S
GOING TO GET THE
ANSWER. SHE'S
GOING TO CLEAR
HIS NAME.

THE GIRL
IS BARELY
HANGING ON.
SHE WILL NOT
STAY SYNCHED
FOR MUCH
LONGER.

YOU CHOSE
BADLY, XAVIER.
AGAIN.

CHARLOTTE
WILL PROVE ME
RIGHT.

PLEASE
CHARLOTTE
PROVE ME
RIGHT.

NO! DON'T!

NO! PLEASE STOP!
STOP THIS!

Salem, 1692.

WHAT
POWER DO THEY
POSSESS, MASTER
STODDARD?

YOUR PAIN
THRESHOLD
IS IMPRESSIVE.
BUT NOW IS THE
TIME FOR THE
TRIAL BY
FIRE.

HISSESSSS...

AGH! STOP!
STOP THIS!

NAAAAGGHI!

SEND YOUR MIND AWAY, TOM.
HE CAN ONLY TOUCH YOUR
BODY. DO NOT BREAK. THE
MISSION DEPENDS UPON IT.

YOU
VENTURED TO
SALEM IN SEARCH
OF A PIECE OF
EDEN.

AND
ATTEMPTED
TO LEAVE
WITH THESE
TWO.

ONE HAS A
POWER. WHICH
ONE IS IT? WHAT
ABILITIES DO THEY
POSSESS?

IF YOU WILL
NOT TELL ME,
THEN PERHAPS
THE FIRE WILL
LOOSEN *HER*
TONGUE.

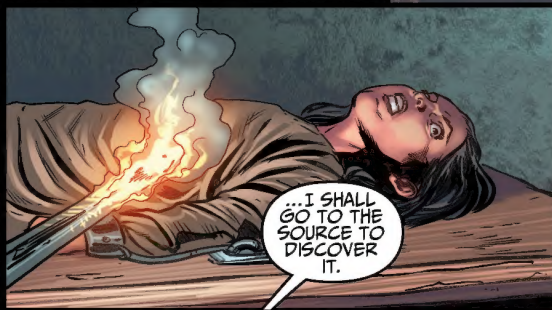
I CAN'T DEAL
WITH THIS.

GOOD,
NURSE. REMAIN
STRONG. THE
PAIN DOES
NOT LAST
FOREVER.

GIVE ME
TIME. I WILL
FREE US.



IF NO ONE
HERE WILL
TELL...

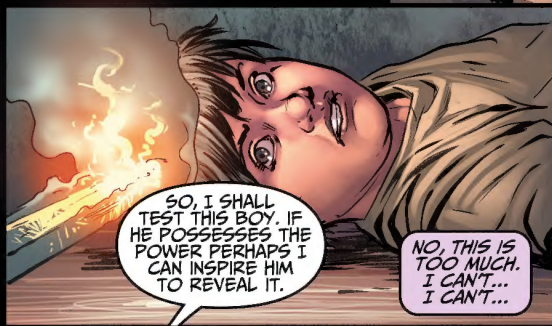


...I SHALL
GO TO THE
SOURCE TO
DISCOVER
IT.



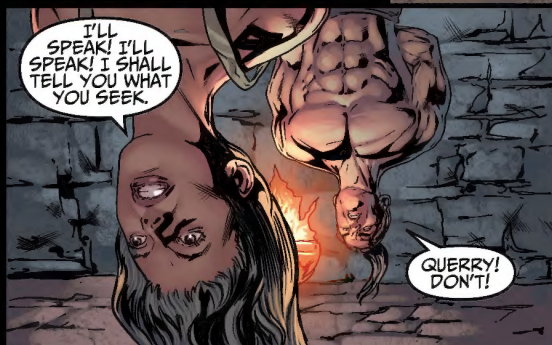
I BELIEVE YOU TO
BE CLEVER, MASTER
STODDARD. WHILE YOU
KEPT ONE CHILD
WITH YOU...

YOU LET
ANOTHER GO.
PERHAPS YOU
THOUGHT TO
CONFUSE ME.



SO, I SHALL
TEST THIS BOY. IF
HE POSSESSES THE
POWER PERHAPS I
CAN INSPIRE HIM
TO REVEAL IT.

NO, THIS IS
TOO MUCH.
I CAN'T...
I CAN'T...



I'LL
SPEAK! I'LL
SPEAK! I SHALL
TELL YOU WHAT
YOU SEEK.

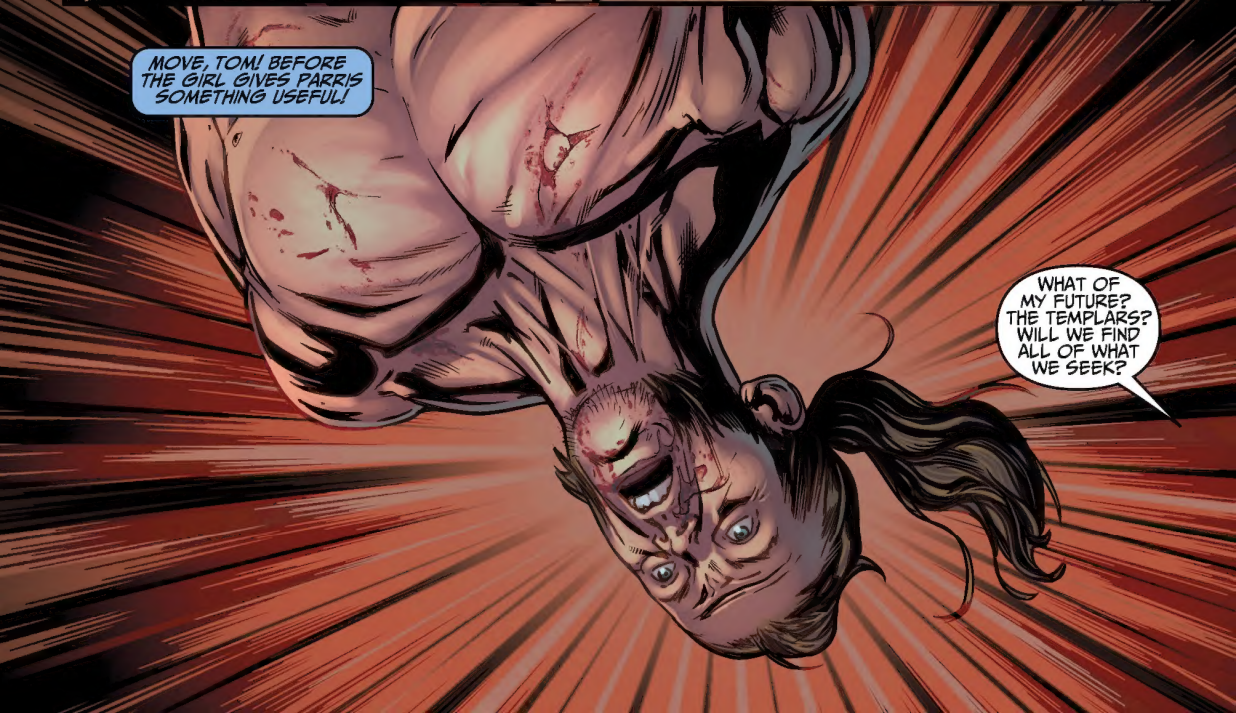
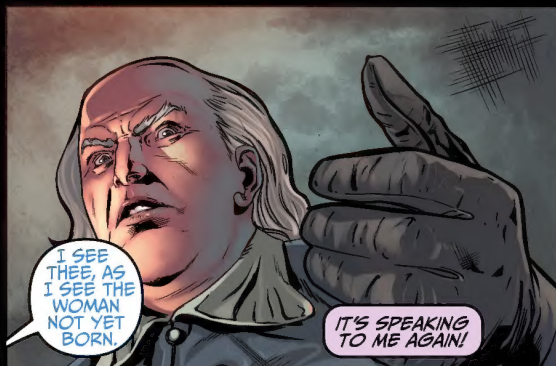
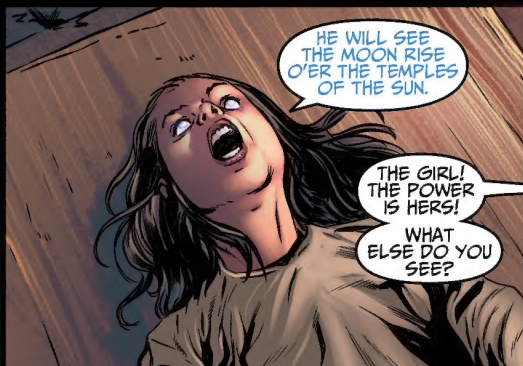
QUERY!
DON'T!

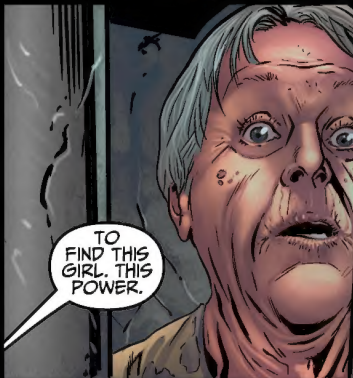


TAKE HER
DOWN.

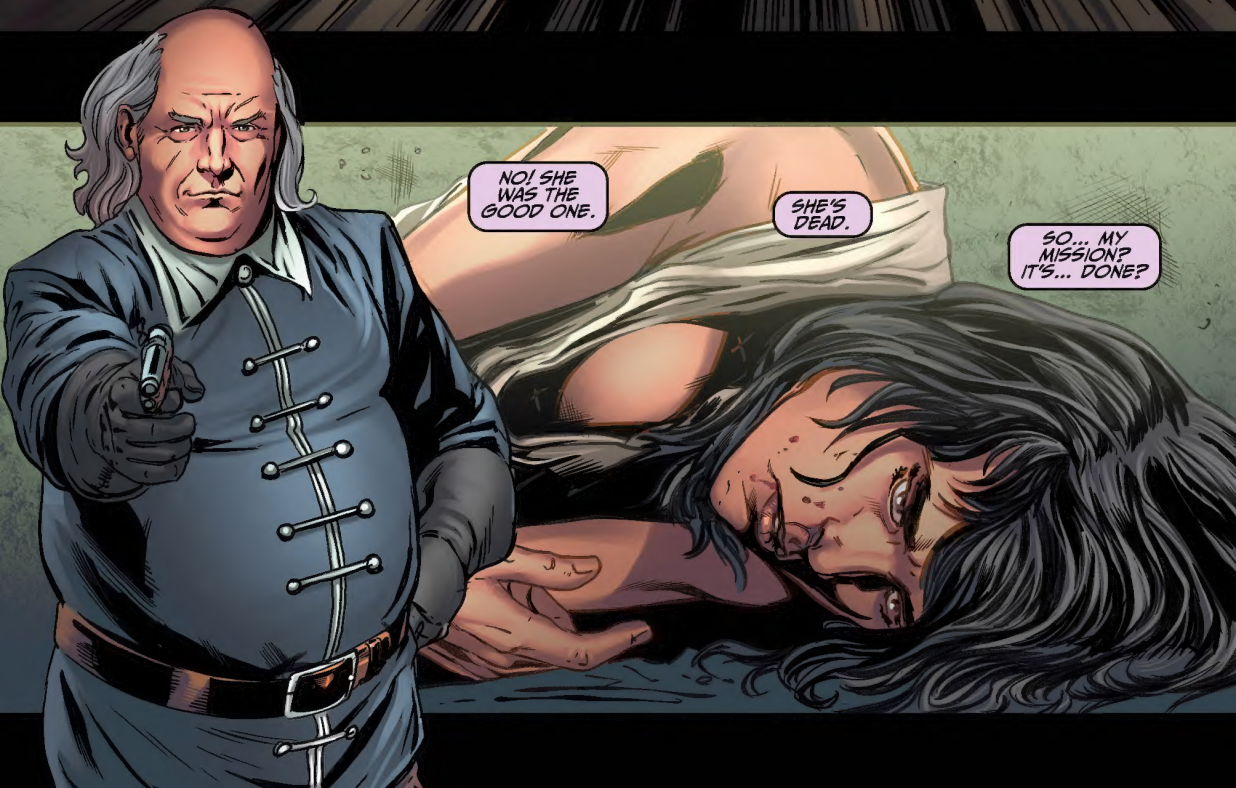
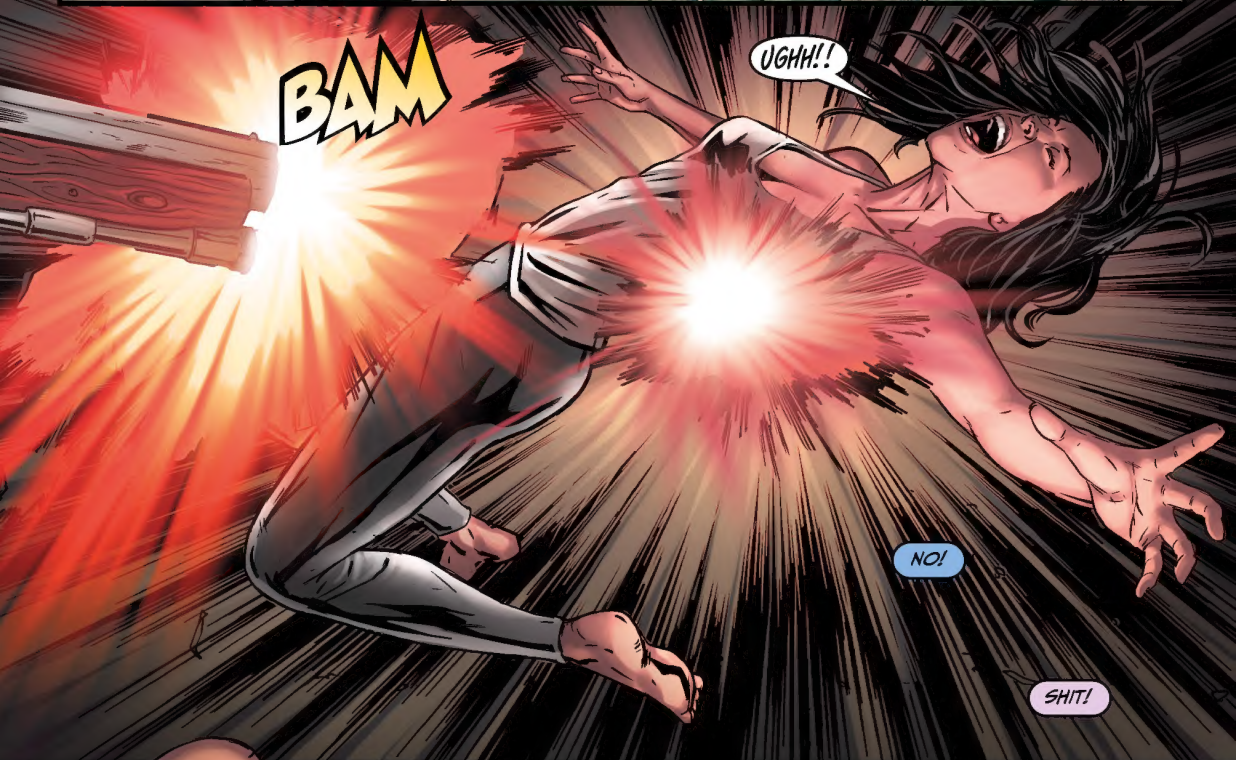
SHE WILL
ANSWER EVERY
QUESTION OR
THE BOY SHALL
BURN.

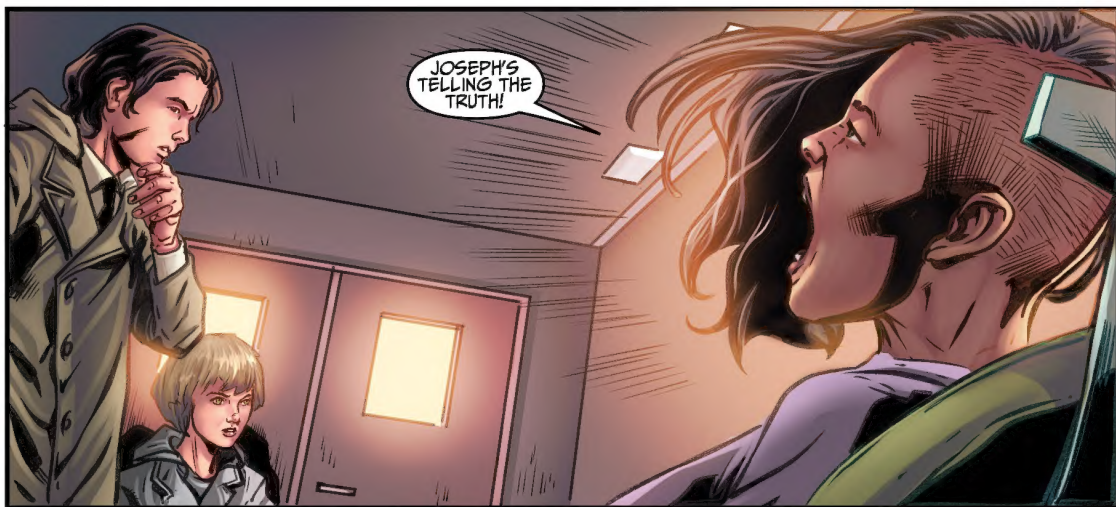
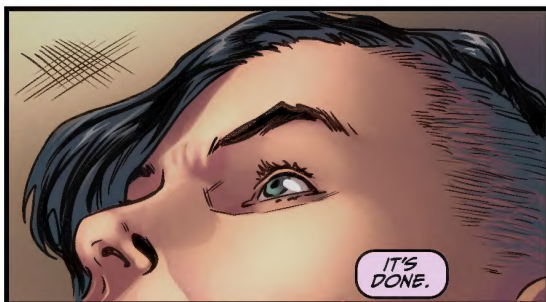
NO,
HE WILL
NOT!











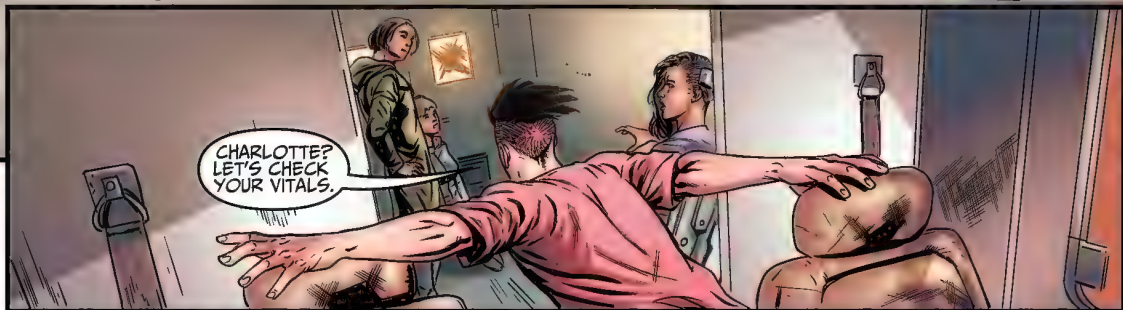


TREO
TEA HEAD
OFFICE.

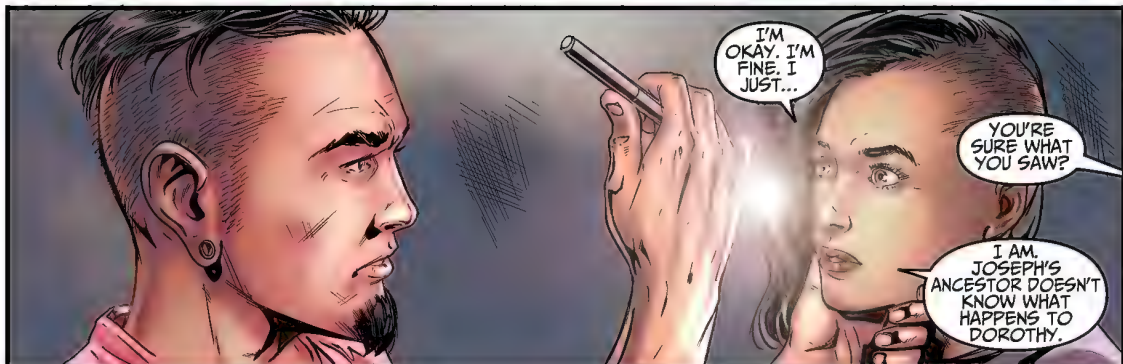
TREO
TEA? I
THOUGHT--

TREO'S A
FRONT FOR THE
TEMPLAR. TOO BAD.
I ALWAYS LIKED
THEIR DATE
SQUARES.

THEY'VE GOT
SOME SECRET
ROOMS INSIDE
THAT SERVE AS
SAFEHOUSES.



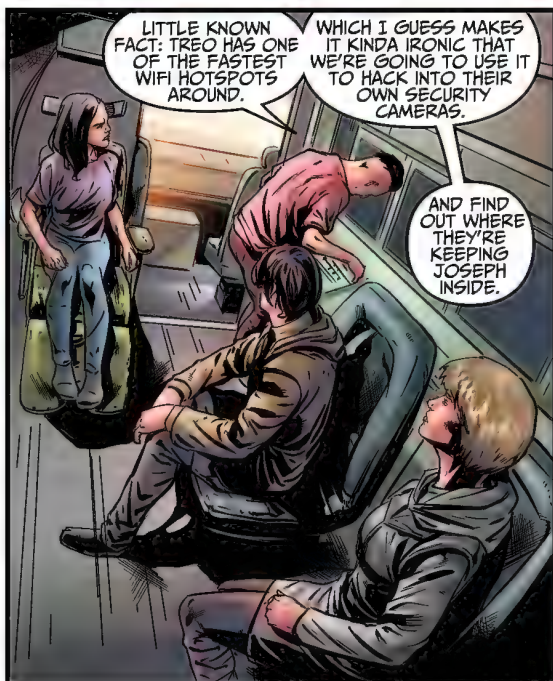
CHARLOTTE?
LET'S CHECK
YOUR VITALS.



I'M
OKAY. I'M
FINE. I
JUST...

YOU'RE
SURE WHAT
YOU SAW?

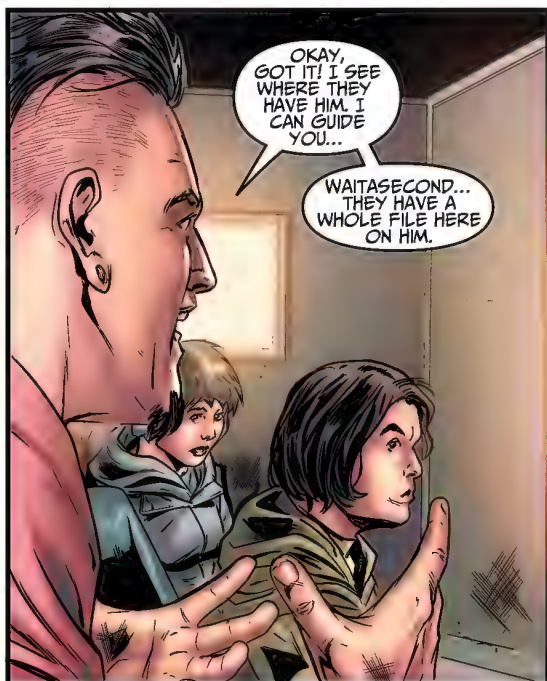
I AM.
JOSEPH'S
ANCESTOR DOESN'T
KNOW WHAT
HAPPENS TO
DOROTHY.



LITTLE KNOWN
FACT: TREO HAS ONE
OF THE FASTEST
WIFI HOTSPOTS
AROUND.

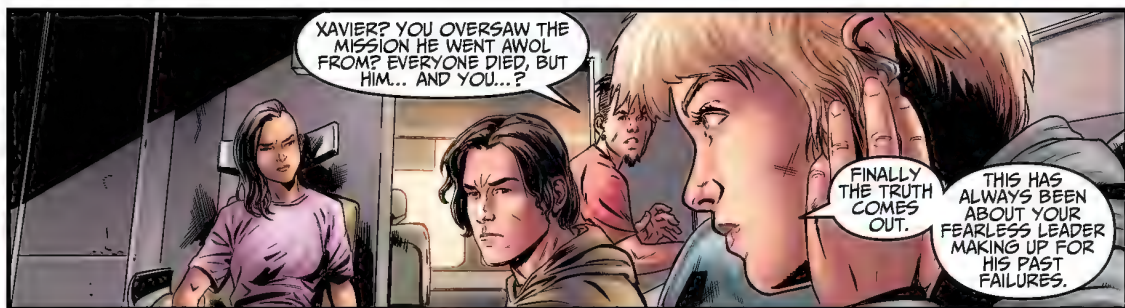
WHICH I GUESS MAKES
IT KINDA IRONIC THAT
WE'RE GOING TO USE IT
TO HACK INTO THEIR
OWN SECURITY
CAMERAS.

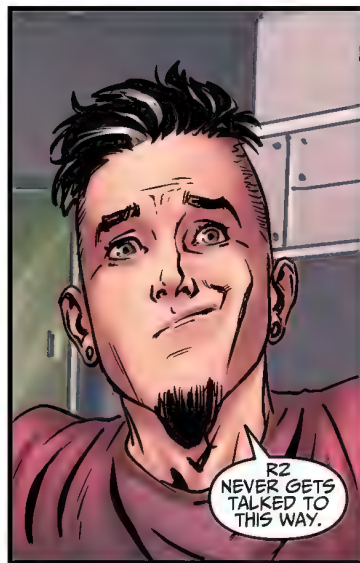
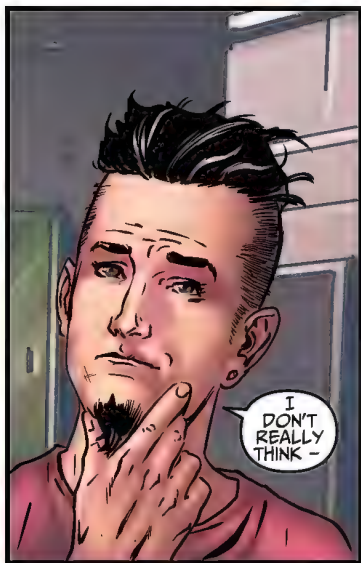
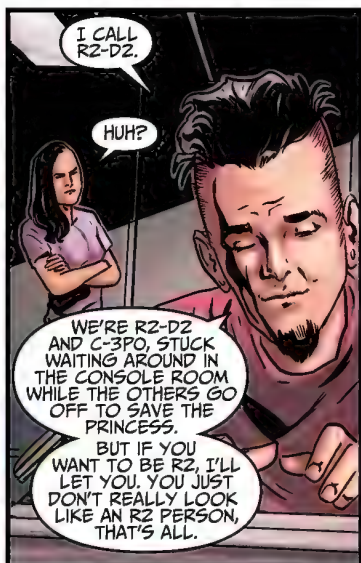
AND FIND
OUT WHERE
THEY'RE
KEEPING
JOSEPH
INSIDE.

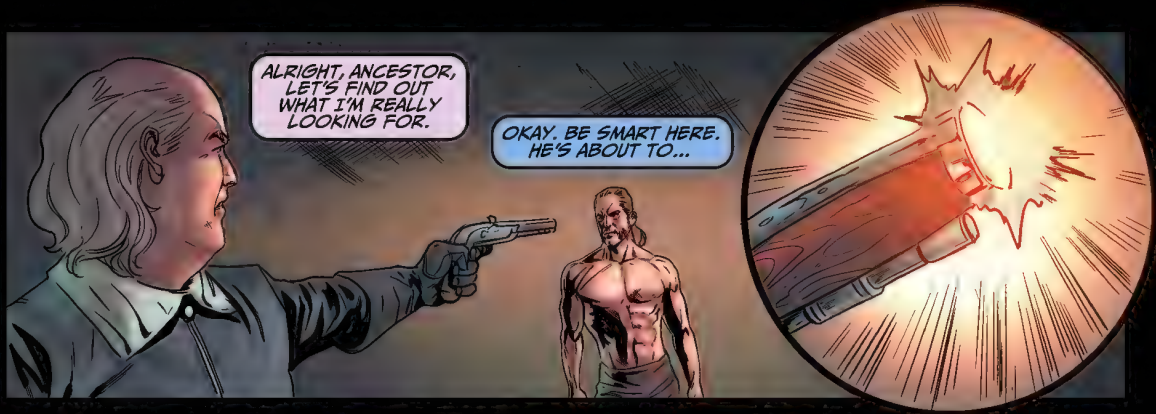


OKAY,
GOT IT! I SEE
WHERE THEY
HAVE HIM. I
CAN GUIDE
YOU...

WAITASECOND...
THEY HAVE A
WHOLE FILE HERE
ON HIM.





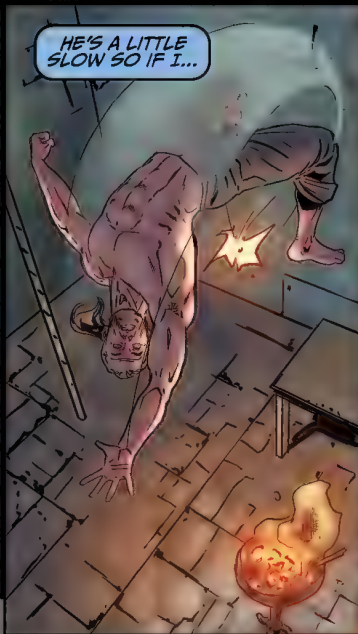


ALRIGHT, ANCESTOR,
LET'S FIND OUT
WHAT I'M REALLY
LOOKING FOR.

OKAY. BE SMART HERE.
HE'S ABOUT TO...



... SHOOT AT ME
SO BREAK LEFT...



HE'S A LITTLE
SLOW SO IF I...

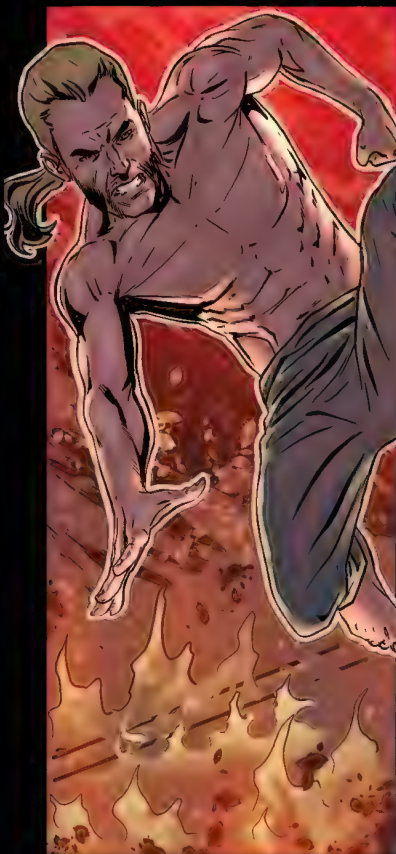


COME FROM
ABOVE...

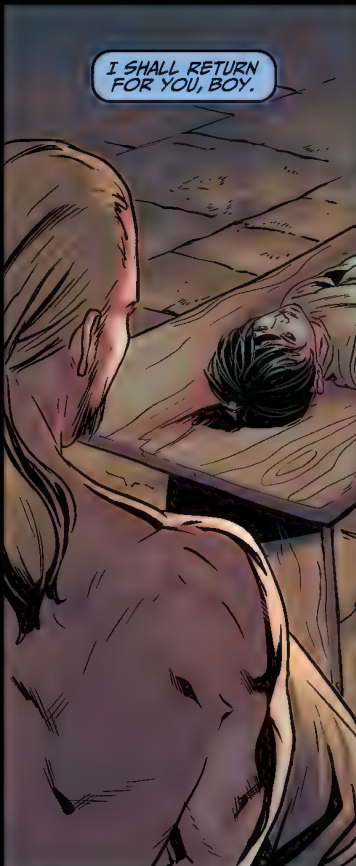


HE WON'T
EXPECT IT.





ALMOST
THERE...

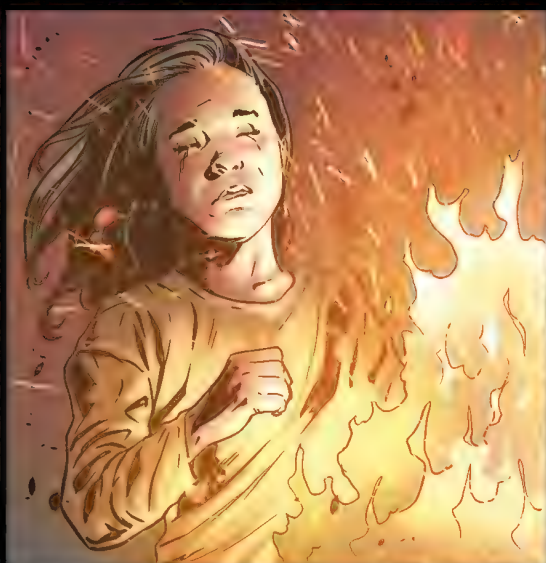
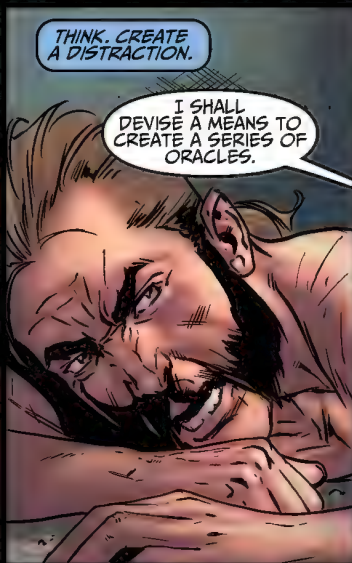


I SHALL RETURN
FOR YOU, BOY.



ONCE THE GIRL IS
SAFELY AWAY.





AGGGHHHH!



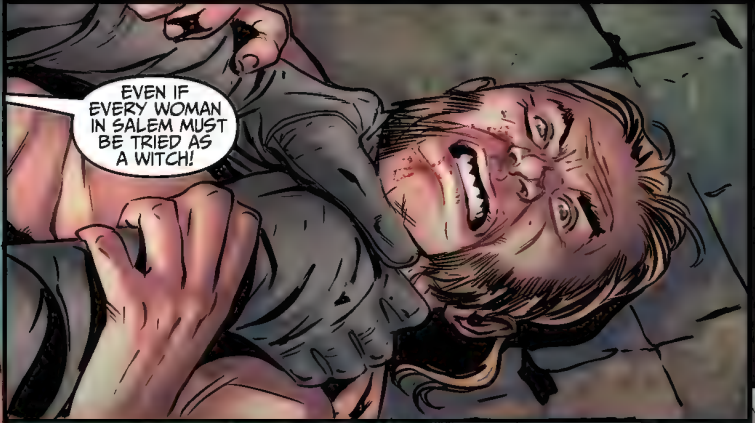
No!!



OH MY GOD!!!



NO!!!!





AH, MASTER
STOUGHTON. MOST
EXCELLENT.



AGHHH!!

BAM



THERE
SHALL BE
NO MORE
TRIALS.
NO MORE
MURDER OF
INNOCENTS.

WHAT MAKE
OF
TEMPLAR
ARE YOU?



BAM

WHAT
MAKE OF
MAN ARE
YOU?

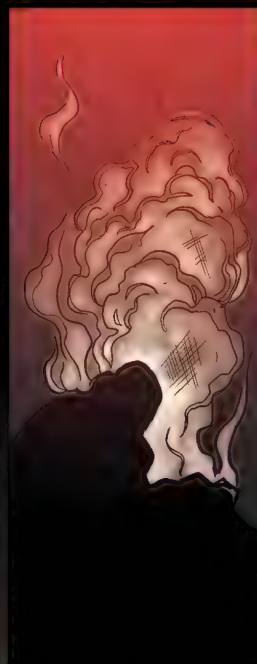
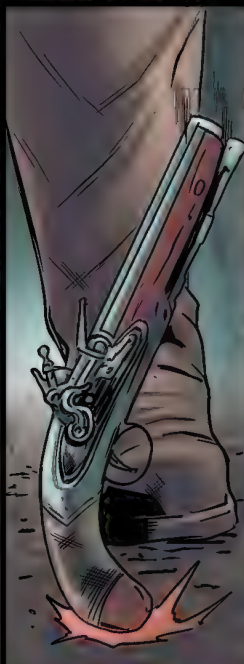
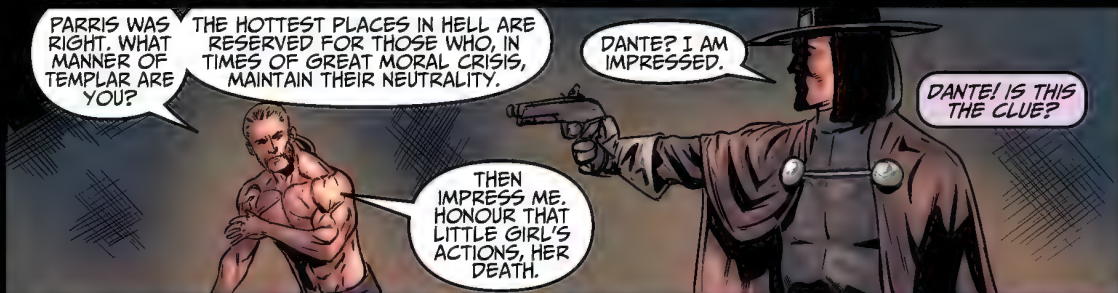


AGHHH!



IT IS FAIR
TIME TO END THIS
FAILED MISSION,
MASTER.







I HAVE BORNE WITNESS TO
MANY DEATHS IN MY LIFETIME.

SO MANY.

WHY CAN I NOT SEE THESE
AS JUST TWO MORE?

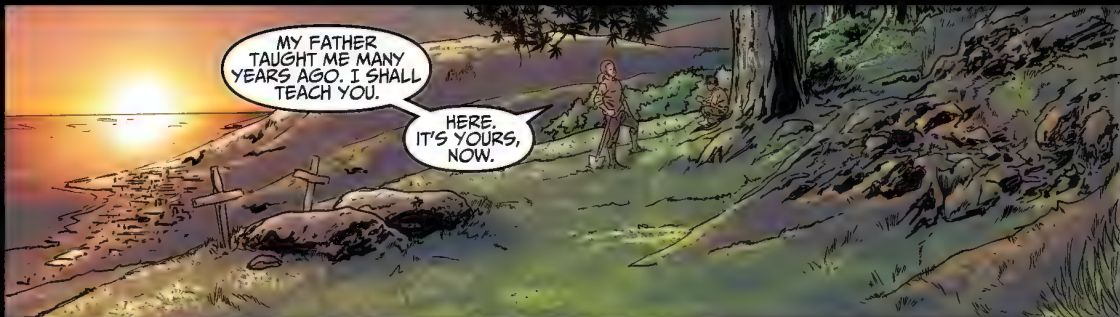
DID I MISS SOMETHING? WHAT DID
CONSUS WANT ME TO SEE?

DANTE GAVE ME SOLACE
WHEN I NEEDED IT.
PERCHANCE...?

THE BOY LOOKS
LIKE I DID THE DAY MY
FATHER WAS BURIED.

DO YOU
KNOW HOW
TO READ
ITALIAN?

DO
YOU KNOW
HOW TO
READ?



MY FATHER
TAUGHT ME MANY
YEARS AGO. I SHALL
TEACH YOU.

HERE.
IT'S YOURS,
NOW.



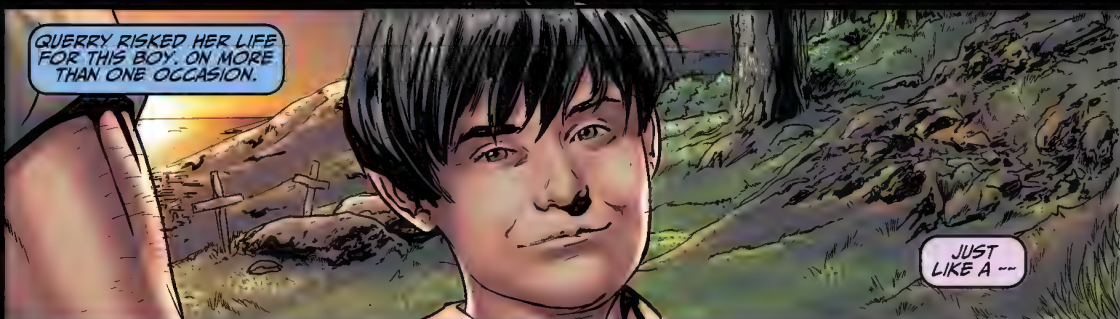
"THE MOTHER WHO IS WAKENED BY
A ROAR AND CATCHES SIGHT OF
BLAZING FLAMES BESIDE HER..."

STODDARD HAS A
HEART. WHO KNEW?



"... WILL LIFT HER SON AND
RUN WITHOUT A STOP - SHE
CARES MORE FOR THE CHILD
THAN FOR HERSELF."

HUH, THAT'S KIND
OF LIKE QUERRY
WAS WITH THIS KID.



QUERRY RISKED HER LIFE
FOR THIS BOY. ON MORE
THAN ONE OCCASION.

JUST
LIKE A ~~~



LIKE A MOTHER.
QUERRY IS THIS
BOY'S MOTHER. SHE
HID IT FROM ME...
FROM EVERYONE.

YES! IT'S TRUE! WHICH
MEANS THAT... HE'S ALSO
JOSEPH'S ANCESTOR!
WHICH MEANS THAT...



WE NEED
TO GO IN! TO
ABSTERGO!

WHAT?
CHARLOTTE!

I'VE BEEN
FOLLOWING THE
WRONG ANCESTOR!
JOSEPH KNOWS WHERE
DOROTHY WAS
BURIED!

JOSEPH'S
BEEN TELLING
THE TEMPLARS
THE TRUTH!

XAVIER AND
GALINA ARE
WALKING INTO
A TRAP!

TO BE CONTINUED...

ASSASSIN'S CREED

TRIAL BY FIRE

PART 4 OF 5

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CONOR MCCREERY

+
ARTIST
NEIL EDWARDS

LETTERER

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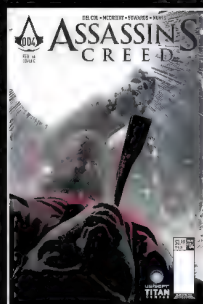
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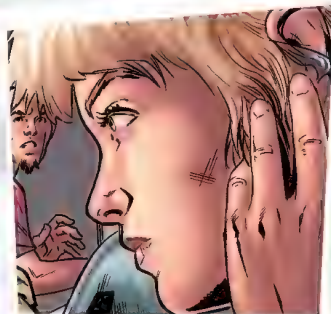
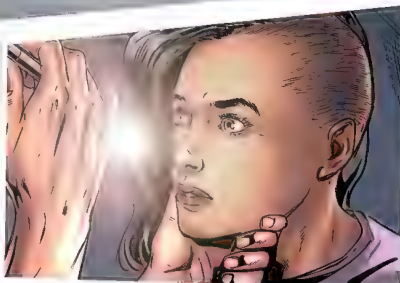
— ON SALE FEBRUARY —

ISSUE



TRUTH AND CONSEQUENCES...

When Charlotte realizes how much danger Xavier and Galina are in, she has to draw on everything she has learned from Tom Stoddard and take on her first real life mission as a member of the Assassin Brotherhood. Can she prove Galina wrong? Does she have what it takes to rescue her friends?



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SALEM

THE TRIALS AND "EVIDENCE" THAT CONDEMNED 24 MEN AND WOMEN TO DEATH...

It was on June 2nd of the year 1692 that the famous trials of Salem began. The Governor of Massachusetts, William Phips, created a Court of Oyer and Terminer to try the cases. These courts, so named for their Anglo-French roots, were commissioned to hear (oyer) and determine (terminer) felonies, treasons, and misdemeanors. The court was comprised of seven members of the community, including William Stoughton. It was these seven men who would condemn 19 people to death, and allow the deaths in prison of five more.

The trials were beset by sensationalism, with spectral evidence admitted in the form of testimonies from the afflicted, with displays of possessions and fits prevalent in the proceedings. 'Spectral evidence' was testimony from the afflicted, girls like Abigail Williams and Betty Parris, that the accused had appeared to them in a dream or vision and perpetrated some harm on them. It was admitted as evidence by William Stoughton.

The first victim of this court was Bridget Bishop. She hadn't been the first accused of witchcraft, but was

the first to be tried for the simple reason that it was believed her trial would be the easiest to win. Bishop was a well-known figure in Salem, but for the wrong reasons. Married three times, she was regarded as having loose morals and a poor character. She dressed flamboyantly, for the time at least, and was known to engage in drinking and gambling. It was not the first time she had been accused of witchcraft, with rumors flitting around the countryside a few years before. She was brought up before the court on the June 2nd. On the 10th, she hanged.

Sarah Good met the same fate. Desperately poor and pregnant, she could often be seen begging door to door. Along with Sarah Osbourn and Tituba, she was one of the first women accused of witchcraft by the girls Abigail Williams and Betty Parris. She was hanged on July 19th. Four other women were hanged that day: a poor widow named Susannah Martin, a farmer's wife Elizabeth Howe, Rebecca Nurse, and Sarah Wildes. The executions of the latter two show just how dangerous the community in Salem had become if you refused to conform. Nurse was a pious and popular woman, but had a



"Witchcraft at Salem Village" likely by F.O.C. Darley, Granville Perkins or William Ludwell Sheppard, ill. Published in "Pioneers in the Settlement of America: From Florida in 1510 to California in 1849," by William August Crafts, Vol. 1, p. 453, Boston: Samuel Walker and Co. 1876.

longstanding feud with the wealthy Putnam family, and disapproved of the appointment of Samuel Parris as the new minister. It was the Putnams who were her main accusers. She was found to be not guilty in the original verdict, but the "afflicted" girls protested vehemently, and the jury reconsidered and returned a guilty verdict. Nurse hanged alongside Good and Howe.

Joining them that day was Sarah Wildes, another victim of the Putnam family. Wildes was the wife of the local judge, and had previous brushes with the law to condemn her. She had been accused of fornicating out of wedlock in 1649 when she was 22,

and charged with the heinous crime of wearing a silk scarf in 1663. Her marriage to John Wildes enraged his sister, Mary Gould, who used her friendship with the Putnam family to ensure Sarah Wildes stood trial. She hanged.

The Salem Witch Trials are a terrifying example of mob mentality, and the power of religious fervor. 24 people lost their lives between June and September of 1692, the last being Giles Corey. He had refused to enter a plea, and was tortured in a field in Salem Town by being pressed with stones. He died after three days.

TO BE CONTINUED...



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MRS
TRIN



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